





## PREFACE

AS the Charles II charter of "Carolina" (including both North and South, and the present Georgia) was granted only in 1663, and no permanent settlements of any considerable size were made for several years) this is one of the earliest known descriptions of the region. It is extremely rare, a letter from Mr. W. B. Rye, of the British Museum to the late Charles C. Jones, Jr., of Augusta, says: "I regret that I cannot ascertain anything, beyond the existence of a copy in the Museum, of the tract by "T. A."

The author certainly takes rank with Munchausen in his florid account of the earthly Paradise which he describes, and his positive assertion of the humming-bird's whirr being plainly audible half a mile away, equals anything ever put forth by Pinto or any other Ananias.

No greater contrast to the flowery account of the semi-tropical Eden which he pictures, can be imagined than the plain straightforward story by the hardy seaman, master of the *Nottingham*, of the hideous sufferings of the shipwrecked crew on the iron-bound coast of Maine, over two centuries ago. Boon Island is off the coast of the town of York, Maine and now has a lighthouse on its rocky shore—had it existed in 1710 the *Nottingham* might have escaped her fate. Like the Carolina pamphlet, this one is extremely scarce, and has not before been reprinted.





# CAROLINA;

OR A

## DESCRIPTION

Of the PRESENT STATE of that

## C O U N T R Y,

AND

The *Natural Excellencies* thereof, *viz.* The *Healthfulness* of the *Air*, Pleasantsness of the Place, Advantage and Usefulness of those Rich Commodities there plentifully abounding, which much encrease and flourish by the Industry of the *Planters* that daily enlarge that *Colony*.

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*Published by T. A. Gent.*

Clerk on Board his Majesties Ship the *Richmond*, which was sent out in the Year 1680, with particular Instructions to enquire into the State of that Country, by His Majesties Special Command, and Return'd this Present Year, 1682.

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L O N D O N,

Printed for *W. C.* and to be Sold by *Mrs. Grover* in *Pelican Court* in *Little Britain*, 1682.

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TO THE  
READER

READER,

**Y**OU may please to understand, that the first Discovery of this Country was at the Charge of King Henry the Seventh, as you will find in this Book; and that as it hath pleased God to add such a Jewel to the Crown of England, so I doubt not but in a few years it will prove the most Beneficial to the Kingdom in General of any Colony yet Planted by the English, which is the more probable from the great Concourse that daily arrives there. From the other Plantations, as well as from England, Ireland, &c. being drawn and invited thither by the Healthfulness of Air, Delicacy of Fruits, the likelihood of Wines, Oyls and Silks, and the great Variety of other Natural commodities within specified, which well considered, will sufficiently evidence the Truth of what I assert; that I may contribute what lies in my power for a further Satisfaction to those Gentlemen that are curious concerning the Country of Carolina, they may find a small Description thereof, with a Map of the first Draught, Published by Mr. Richard Blome, and Printed for Dorman Newman in the Year 1678 in Octavo, and one larger in Mr. Ogleby's America; since the publishing of these, there is by the Order of the Lords Proprietors newly published in one large Sheet of Paper, a very spacious Map of Carolina, with its Rivers, Harbors, Plantations, and other Accommodations, from the latest Survey, and best Informations, with a large and particular Description of the Entrances into Ashley and Cooper Rivers; this Map to be sold for 1s. by Joel Gascoyne, near Wapping Old Stairs, and Robert Green in Budge Row London, 1682.





A  
COMPLEAT DISCOVERY  
OF THE  
State of Carolina;  
IN the YEAR 1682.

THE Discourses of many Ingenious Travellers who have lately seen this part of the *West Indies* have for Salubrity of Air, Fertility of Soyl, for the Luxuriant and Indulgent Blessings of Nature, justly rendered *Carolina* Famous. That since my Arrival at *London* I have observed many with pleasing *Ideas* and Contemplations, as if ravisht with Admiration, discourse of its Pleasures: Whilst others more actively prest and stimulated, have with vehement and ardent Desires willingly resolved to hazard their Lives, Families, and Fortunes to the Mercy of Wind, Seas and Storms, to enjoy the Sweets of so desirable a Being.

Having spent near three Years Abroad, in which time I had a fair Opportunity of a Survey of great part of our English *America* you my Worthy Friend, knowing in what Character, I went abroad, and understanding of my being at *Carolina*, did obligingly request that at Leisure I would collect such Notices of my own whilst there, with those Remarques and Observations which I had learnt from the most Able and Ingenious Planters, who have had their Residence on the place from its first being Colonized, you desiring to be assured whether the true State of the Country did answer the Reports of Common Fame. Which in Compliance with, and in Obedience to your Commands, I have undertaken.

*Carolina* derives her name either from our present Illustrious Monarch, under whose glorious Auspices it was first establishd an *English* Colony, in the Year *One Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy*, and under whose benign and happy Influence it now prospers

and flourishes, or from *Charles* the Ninth of that Name King of *France*, in whose Reign a Colony of *French Protestants* were transported thither, at the encouragement of *Gaspar Coligni*, Admiral of that Kingdom; the place of their first Settlement named in Honour of their Prince *Arx Carolina*; but not long after, that Colony, with Monsieur *Ribault* their leader, were by the *Spaniard* at once cut off and destroyed. Since which nor *French* nor *Spaniard* have made any Attempt for its Re-Settlement. *Carolina* is the Northermost part of the spacious and pleasant Province of *Florida*; it lies in the *Northern* temperate Zone, between the latitude of Twenty Nine, and Thirty Six Degrees, and Thirty Minutes. It's bounded on the *East* with the Atlantick, or *Northern*, on the *West* with the Pacifick or *Southern* Ocean, on the *North* with *Virginia*, on the *South* with the remaining part of *Florida*. The Air of so serene and excellent a temper, that the *Indian* Natives prolong their days to the Extremity of Old Age. And where the *English* hitherto have found no Distempers either Epidemical or Mortal, but what have had their Rise from Excess or Origine from Intemperance. In *July* and *August* they have sometimes Touches of Agues and Fevers, but not violent, of short continuance, and never Fatal. *English* Children there born, are commonly strong and lusty, of sound Constitutions and fresh ruddy Complexions. The Seasons are regularly disposed according to Nature's Laws; the Summer not so torrid, hot and burning as that of their *Southern*, nor the Winter so rigorously sharp and cold, as that of their *Northern* Neighbours. In the Evenings and Mornings of *December* and *January*, thin congealed Ice, with hoary Frosts sometimes appear; but as soon as the Sun elevates her self above the *Horizon*, as soon they disappear and vanish; snow having been seen but twice in ten Years, or from its first being settled by the *English*.

The Soil near the Sea, of a Mould Sandy, farther distant more clayey, or Sand and Clay mixt; the Land lies upon a Level in fifty or sixty Miles round, having scarce the least Hill or Eminency.

It's cloathed with odoriferous and fragrant Woods, flourishing in perpetual and constant Verdures, *viz.* the lofty Pine, the sweet-smelling *Cedar* and *Cyprus* Trees, of both which are composed goodly Boxes, Chests, Tables, Scrittores, and Cabinets. The Dust and Shavings of *Cedar*, laid amongst Linnen or Woollen, destroys the Moth and all Verminous Insects. It never rots, breeding no Worm by which many other Woods are consumed and destroyed. Of *Cedar* there are many sorts; this in *Carolina* is esteemed of equal Goodness for Grain, Smell and Colour with the *Bermudian Cedar*, which of all the *West Indian* is esteemed the most excellent; that in the *Caribbe* Islands and *Jamaica* being of a coarser kind, Oyl and the Spirit of Wine penetrating it; but with this they make Heading for their Casks which the sharpest and most searching Liquors does not pierce. With the Berry of the Tree at *Bermudaz*, by Decoction, they make a very wholesome and sovereign Drink. This Tree in the Sacred Writ is famous, especially those of *Lebanon*, for their Stately Stature; but those in the *West Indies* I observed to be of a low and humble height. The *Sassafrass* is a Medicinal Tree, whose Bark and Leaves yield a pleasing Smell. It profits in all Diseases of the Blood, and Liver, particularly in all Venereal and Scorbutick Distempers. There are many other Fragrant smelling trees, the *Myrtle*, *Bay* and *Lawrel*, several Others to us wholly unknown. Fruit Trees there are in abundance of various and excellent kinds, the Orange, Lemon, Pomegranate, Fig and Almond. Of *English* Fruits, the Apple, Pear, Plumb, Cherry, Quince, Peach, a sort of Medlar, and Chesnut. Walnut Trees there are of two or three sorts; but the Black Walnut for its Grain is most esteem'd: the Wild Walnut, or Hiquery-Tree, gives the Indians, by boyling its Kernel, a wholesome Oyl, from whom the *English* frequently supply themselves for their Kitchen uses, It's commended for a good Remedy in Dolors, and Gripes of the Belly; whilst new it has a pleasant Taste, but after six Months, it decays and grows acid. I believe it might make a good Oyl, and of as general an use as that of the Olive, if it were better purified and



rectified. The *Chincopin* Tree bears a Nut not unlike the *Hazle*, the Shell is softer: Of the Kernel is made Chocolate, not much inferior to that made of the *Cocoa*.

The *Peach* Tree in incredible Numbers grows Wild. Of the Fruit expressed, the Planters compose a pleasant refreshing Liquor; the Remainder of the Fruit serves the Hogg and Cattle for Provision. The *Mulberry Tree* every-where amidst the Woods grows wild. The Planters, near their Plantations, in Rows and Walks, plant them for Use, Ornament and Pleasure. What I observed of this Fruit was admirable; the Fruit there was full and ripe in the latter end of *April* and beginning of *May*, whereas in *England* and *Europe* they are not ripe before the latter end of *August*. A Manufactory of Silk well encouraged might soon be accomplished, considering the numerousness of the Leaf for Provision, the clemency and moderateness of the Climate to indulge and nourish the Silk-worm. To make tryal of its Success was the Intention of those *French Protestant Passengers* transported thither in His Majesties Frigate the *Richmond*, being Forty Five, the half of a greater Number design'd for that place; but their Design was too early anticipated: the Eggs which they brought with them, being hatch'd at Sea before we could reach the Land, the Worms for want of Provision were untimely lost and destroyed. The *Olive Tree* thrives there very well. Mr. *James Colleton*, Brother to Sir *Peter*, one of the Honourable Proprietors, brought an *Olive Stick* from *Fyall*, (one of the *Western Islands*) cut off at both Ends. to *Carolina*, which put into the Ground grew and prospered exceedingly; which gave so great an Encouragement that since I left the place, I hear that several more were brought there, there being great Hopes that if the *Olive* be well improved, there may be expected from thence perhaps as good *Oyl* as any the World yields.

*Vines* of divers sorts, bearing both Black and Gray *Grapes*, grow, climbing their highest Trees, running and over-spreading their lower Bushes. Five kinds they have already distinguished,

three of which by *Re-plantation*, and if well cultivated, they own, will make very good *Wine*; some of which has been transported for *England*, which by the best Pallates was well approved of, and more is daily expected, tis not doubted, if the *Planters* as industriously prosecute the *Propagation* of *Vineyards* as they have begun, but *Carolina* will in a little time prove a *Magazine* and *Staple* for *Wines* to the whole *West-Indies*; and to enrich their Variety, some of the Proprietors and Planters have sent them the Noblest and Excellentest *Vines* of *Europe*, viz. the *Rhenish*, *Clarret*, the *Muscadel* and *Canary* &c. His Majesty to improve so hopeful a Design, gave those *French* we carried over their Passage free for themselves, *Wives*, *Children*, *Goods* and *Servants*, they being most of them well experienced in the Nature of the *Vine*, from whose Directions doubtless the *English* have received and made considerable Advantages in their Improvements.

*Trees* for the Service of building Houses and Shipping, besides those and many more which we have not nam'd; they have all such as we in *England* esteem Good, Lasting, and Serviceable, as the *Oak* of three sorts, the *White*, *Black* and *Live Oak*, which for Toughness, and the Goodness of its Grain is much esteemed: *Elm*, *Ash*, *Beech*, and *Poplar*, &c. Into the Nature, Qualities and Vertues of their Herbs, Roots and Flowers, we had little time to make any curious Enquiry. This we were assured by many of the knowing Planters, that they had Variety of such whose *Medicinal* Vertues were rare and admirable. The *China* grows plentifully there, whose Root infus'd yields us that pleasant Drink, which we know by the Name of *China Ale* in *England*: in *Medicinal* Uses it's far more excellent. Monsieur *Tavernier*, in his late Voyages to *Persia*, observes that Nation, by the frequent use of Water in which this Root is boyl'd, are never troubled with the Stone or Gout. It munitifies and sweetens the Blood. It's good in *Fevers*, *Scurvy*, *Gonorrhoea*, and the *Lues Venerea*. They have three sorts of the *Rattle-Snake Root* which I have seen; the *Common* or *Hairy*, the *Smooth*, the *Nodous*, or *Knotted Root*: all which are lactiferous, or yielding

a *Milkie Juice*; and if I do not very much in my Observations err, the Leaves of all these Roots of a Heart had the exact Resemblance. They are all Sovereign against the Mortal Bites of that Snake, too frequent in the *West Indies*. In all *Pestilential Distempers*, as *Plague*, *Small Pox*, and *Malignant Fevers*, it's a Noble *Specifick*; when stung they eat the Root, applying it to the Venemous Wound; or they boyl the Roots in Water, which drunk, fortifies and corroborates the Heart, exciting strong and generous Sweats, by which endangered Nature is relieved, and the Poyson carried off and expelled.

*Gardens* as yet they have not much improved or minded, their Designs having otherwise more profitably engaged them in settling and cultivating their *Plantations* with good Provisions and numerous Stocks of Cattle; which two things by *Planters* are esteemed the *Basis* and *Props* of all New *Plantations* and *Settlements*; before which be well accomplished and performed, nothing to any purpose can be effected; and upon which all *Intentions*, *Manufactories*, &c. have their necessary Dependance. But now their *Gardens* begin to be supplied with such *European Plants* and *Herbs* as are necessary for the Kitchen, *viz.* *Potatoes*, *Lettice*, *Coleworts*, *Parsnip*, *Turnip*, *Carrot* and *Reddish*. Their *Gardens* also begin to be beautified and adorned with such *Herbs* and *Flowers* which to the Smell or Eye are pleasing and agreeable, *viz.* The *Rose*, *Tulip*, *Carnation* and *Lilly*, &c. Their Provision which grows in the Field is chiefly *Indian Corn*, which produces a vast Increase yearly, yielding Two plentiful Harvests, of which they make wholesome Bread, and good Bisket, which gives a strong, sound, and nourishing Diet; with Milk I have eaten it dress'd various ways. Of the Juice of the Corn, when green, the *Spaniards* with *Chocolet*, aromatiz'd with *Spices*, make a rare Drink, of an excellent Delicacy. I have seen the *English* amongst the *Caribbes* roast the green Ear on the *Coals*, and eat it with a great deal of Pleasure: The *Indians* in *Carolina* parch the ripe Corn, then pound it to a Powder, putting it in a Leathern Bag. When they use it, they take a little quantity of



the Powder in the Palms of their Hands, mixing it with Water, and sup it off: with this they will travel several days. In short, it's a Grain of General Use to Man and Beast, many thousands of both kinds in the *West Indies* having from it the greater part of their Subsistence. The *American Physicians* observe that it breeds good Blood, removes and opens *Oppellations* and *Obstructions*. At *Carolina* they have lately invented a way of making with it good sound Beer; but it's strong and heady. By *Maceration*, when duly fermented, a strong Spirit like *Brandy* may be drawn off from it, by the help of an *Alembick*.

Pulse they have of great Variety, not only of what *Europe* yields, viz. *Beans, Pease, Callavance, Figolaes, and Bonavist, &c.* but many other kinds proper to the place, and to us unknown. *Green Pease* at the latter end of *April*, at my being there, I eat as good as ever I did in *England*. *Strawberries, Rasberries, Billberries, and Blackberries* grow frequently up and down the Woods. *Hemp* and *Flax* thrives exceeding well; there grows a sort of wild Silk Pods, call'd *Silk-Grass*, of which they may make fine and durable Linnen.

What *Wheat* they have planted has been rather for Experiment and Observation, whether it would be agreeable to the Soil and Climate, than for any substance for themselves or for Transportation abroad; what they have sown the Planters assured us grew exceeding well; as also *Barly*, Mr. *Linch*, an ingenious Planter, having whilst we were there very good growing in his Plantation, of which he intended to make Malt for brewing of *English Beer* and Ale, having all Utensils and Conveniences for it. *Tobacco* grows very well; and they have of an excellent sort, mistaken by some of our *English Smokers* for *Spanish Tobacco*, and valued from 5 to 8s. the Pound; but finding a great deal of trouble in the Planting and Cure of it, and the great Quantities which *Virginia*, and other of His Majesties Plantations make, rendering it a Drug over all *Europe*, they do not much regard or encourage its Planting, having already before them better and more profitable Designs in

Action. *Tarr* made of the resinous Juice of the *Pine* (which boyl'd to a thicker Consistence is Pitch) they make great quantities yearly, transporting several Tuns to *Barbadoes*, *Jamaica*, and the *Caribbe* Islands. *Indigo* they have made, and that good: the reason why they have desisted I cannot learn. To conclude, there grows in *Carolina* the famous *Cassiny*, whose admirable and incomparable Vertues are highly applauded and extolled by *French* and *Spanish* Writers. It is the Leaves of a certain Tree, which boyl'd in Water (as we do *Thea*) wonderfully enliven and invigorate the Heart, with genuine easie *Sweats* and *Transpirations*, preserving the Mind free and serene, keeping the Body brisk, active and lively, not for an hour or two but for as many days, as those Authors report, without any other Nourishment or Subsistence, which if true, is really admirable; they also add, that none amongst the *Indians* but their great Men and Captains, who have been famous for their great Exploits of War and Noble Actions, are admitted to the use of this noble Bevaridge. At my being there I made Enquiry after it, but the Ignorance of the Planter did not inform me. *Sponges* growing on the Sandy Shoars, I have gathered good and large; for which *Samos* in times past was famous, supposed by the Ancients to be the only place in the World where they grew: a courser sort I have seen pull'd up by Fishers, fishing among the Rocks of the Island of *Barbadoes*. *Ambergrise* is often thrown on their Shoars; a pretious Commodity to him who finds it; if *Native* and pure in Worth and Value it surpasses Gold; being estimated at 5 and 6 Pound the Ounce, if not adulterated. What it is I shall not decide, leaving it to the Judgment of the more Learned, whether it be the Excrement of the *Whale*, because sometimes in dissecting and opening their Bodies it's there discovered. I think as well it may be argued the Excrements of other Creatures, Birds and some Beasts greedily desiring and affecting it, especially the *Fox*, who eating it, by Digestion it passes through his Body; after some Alteration it's again recover'd, and is that which we call *Fox Ambergrise*. Others, that it is a bituminous Substance, ebullating or

boiling up from the Bottom of the Sea, and floating on the Surface of the Waters, is condensed by the circumambient Air: of which Opinion is the Learned *Sennertus*. Some that it is a Plant of a viscous oleaginous Body, really growing at the bottom of the Sea, the swift and violent Motion of the Waters in Storms causing an Eradication or Evulsion of the Plant, forcing it to the adjacent Shoars; that it's most plentifully found after Storms is certain: if true, as an intelligent man informed me, who lived many years at the *Bermudaz* and among the *Behama* Islands, who saw at the *Behama* a piece of *Ambergrise* weighing thirty pound (for its bigness famous in those Parts) having perfect and apparent Roots, equal to the Body in worth and goodness. Others, that it's the liquid resinous Tears of some odoriferous Tree, hanging over *Seas* or *Rivers*, coagulated in that Form which we find it. Dr. *Trapham*, an ingenious Physitian in *Jamaca*, differs little from this last opinion, thinking it the Gummous Juice of some fragrant Plant which grows on Rocks near the Sea, whose Trunks broken by the rude and boysterous Waves, emit that precious Liquor. In Medicinal and Physical uses it has a high esteem, being prescribed in the richest Cordials, admirable in the languishes of the Spirit, Faintings, and *Deliquium* of the Heart; given as the last remedy to *agonizing* Persons. In Perfumes of Linnen, Woollen, Gloves, &c. there is none esteemed more costly or precious. It's of different Colors, *Black*, *Red*, the *Nutmeg*, and *Gray* Color are held the best.

The great encrease of their Cattel is rather to be admired than believed: not more than six or seven years past the Country was almost destitute of *Cows*, *Hogs*, and *Sheep*, now they have many thousand Head. The *Planter* in *Winter* takes no care for their Provision, which is a great Advantage; the *Northern* Plantations obliging the Planters to spend great part of their *Summer* to provide Fodder and Provision for their Cattle, to preserve them from starving in the *Winter*. The *Cows* the Year round brouzing on the sweet Leaves growing on the Trees and Bushes, or on the wholesome *Herbage* growing underneath. They usually call them home



in the Evening for their Milk, and to keep them from running wild. *Hogs* find more than enough of Fruits in the *Summer*, and Roots and Nuts in the *Winter*; from the abundance of their Feeding, great numbers forsake their own Plantations, running wild in the Woods. The *Tyger*, *Wolf*, and *wild Cat*, by devouring them, oftentimes goes Share with the Planter; but when the Stock encreases and grows strong, the older surround the younger, and boldly oppose and oftentimes attack their Invaders. Their *Sheep* bears good Wool; the Ewes at a time often have two or three Lambs; they thrive very well, the Country being so friendly to their Natures, that it's observed they are neither liable or incident to any known Disease or Distemper. Of Beasts bearing *Furrs*, they have great store of Variety, whose Skins serve the *Indians* for *Cloathing* and *Bedding*, and the *English* for many uses, besides the great Advantage made of them by their being sent for *England*. *Deer*, of which there is such infinite Herds that the whole Country seems but one continued Park, insomuch, that I have often heard Captain *Matthews*, an ingenious Gentleman and Agent to Sir *Peter Colleton* for his Affairs in *Carolina*, that one hunting *Indian* has yearly kill'd and brought to his Plantation more than an 100, sometimes 200 head of *Deer*. *Bears* there are in great numbers, of whose Fat they make an Oyl which is of great Vertue and Efficacy in causing the Hair to grow, which I observed the *Indians* daily used, by which means they not only keep their Hair clear and preserved from Vermine, but by the nourishing faculty of the Oyl, it usually extended in length to their middles. There are *Bevors*, *Otters*, *Foxes*, *Racoons*, *Possums*. *Musquasses*,\* *Hares* and *Coneys*, *Squirrels* of five kinds, the flying Squirrel, whose delicate Skin is commended for comforting if applied to a cold Stomack, the Red, the Grey, the Fox and Black Squirrels. Leather for Shoes they have good and well tann'd. The *Indians* have also a way of dressing their Skins rather softer, tho' not so durable as ours in *England*.

\*It's a little creature feeding on Sweet Herbs, whose Codds scent as sweet and strong as Musk, lasting a long time, if handsomely enclosed in Cotton Wool.

*Birds* the Country yields of differing kinds and Colours. For Prey, the *Pelican*, *Hawk*, and *Eagle*, &c. For Pleasure, the *red*, *copped* and *blew Bird*, which wantonly imitates the various Notes and Sounds of such Birds and Beasts which it hears, wherefore by way of Allusion it's call'd the *Mocking Bird*; for which pleasing Property it's there esteemed a Rarity. Birds for Food and pleasure of Game, are the *Swan*, *Goose*, *Duck*, *Mallard*, *Wigeon*, *Teal*, *Curlew*, *Plover*, *Partridge*, the Flesh of which is equally as good, tho' smaller than ours in *England*. *Pigeons* and *Parakeittoes*. In *Winter* huge Flights of wild *Turkies*, oftentimes weighing from twenty, thirty to forty pound. There are also great Stocks of tame Fowl, *viz.* *Geese*, *Ducks*, *Cocks*, *Hens*, *Pigeons* and *Turkies*. They have a Bird I believe the least in the whole Creation, named the *Humming Bird*; in bigness the *Wren* being much superiour, in Magnitude not exceeding the *Humble Bee*, whose Body in flying much resembles it, did not their long Bills, between two and three Inches, and no bigger than Needles, make the difference. They are of a deep Green, shadow'd with a Murry, not much unlike the color of some Doves' Necks; they take their Food humming or flying, feeding on the exuberant Moistures of sweet odoriferous Leaves and Flowers. I have frequently seen them in many parts of the *West Indies*, but never observed them to have any Musical Air, but a loud Note to Admiration, crying *Chur*, *Chur*, *Chur*, &c. which at the distance of half a mile is plainly heard: their Eggs, of which they produce three or four young at a time, not unlike small white Pease: they continue between the *Tropiques* the whole year round, as I have observed at *Berbadoes* and *Jamaica*; but I am informed that in the more *Northern* parts of *America* they sleep the whole *Winter*; at *Berbadoes* the *Jews* curiously skin these little Birds, filling them with fine Sand and perfuming their Feathers, they are sent into *Europe* as pretty Delicacies for Ladies, who hang them at their Breasts and Girdles.

There are in *Carolina* great numbers of Fire Flies, who carry their Lanthorns in their Tails in dark Nights, flying through the

Air, shining like Sparks of Fire, enlightening it with their Golden Spangles. I have seen a larger sort at *Jamaica*, which Dr. *Heylin* in his *Cosmography* enumerates amongst the Rarities and Wonders of *Hispaniola*, an Island under the King of *Spain*, distant between twenty and thirty Leagues from *Jamaica*. These have two Lights above their Eyes, and a third in their Tails; in dark nights they shine like Candles: for which I have often at a distance mistaken them, supposing them to have been the Lights of some adjacent Plantation; and in this I have not been the first that has been so deceived. Amongst large *Orange Trees* in the Night I have seen many of those Flies, whose Lights have appeared like hanging Candles or pendant Flambeaus, which amidst the Leaves and ripe Fruit yielded a Sight truly glorious to behold: with three of these included in a Glass Bottle, in a very dark Night I have read very small Characters. When they are kill'd, their *Igneous*, or *Luminous* Matter does not immediately (till half an hour, or an hour after their Deaths) extinguish.

As the Earth, the Air, &c. are enrich'd and replenish'd with the Blessings of the most High, the Seas and Rivers of the same bounty equally participate in the Variety of excellent and wholesome Fish which it produces, *viz. Sturgeon*, of whose *Sounds*, *Iceing glass*, of whose *Roes Caviare* are made: *Mullet*, a delicious sweet Fish, of whose *Roes* or *Spawn Botargo* is made: *Whale*, *Salmon*, *Trouts*, *Bass*, *Drum*, *Cat-fish*, whose Head and glaring Eyes resemble a Cat; it's esteemed a very good Fish; it hath a sharp thorny Bone on its Back, which strikes at such as endeavor to take it: which by Seamen is held venomous; yet I saw one of our Seamen, the back of whose Hand was pierced with it, yet no poisonous Symptoms of Inflammation or Rancor appear'd on the Wound, which quickly heal'd, that I concluded it was either false, or that of this Fish there were more kinds than one: *Plaice*, *Eels*, *Crabs*, *Prawns* twice as large as ours in *England*: *Oysters* of an *Oblong* or *Oval* Form; their number inexhaustible; a man may easily gather



more in a day than he can well eat in a year; some of which are margiriferous, yielding bright round Oriental Pearl.

The *Tortoise*, more commonly call'd by our *West Indians* the *Turtle*, are of three sorts, the *Hawks-Bill*, whose Shell is that which we call the *Turtle* or *Tortoise Shell*; the *Green Turtle*, whose Shell being thin is little regarded; but its Flesh is more esteemed than the *Hawks-bill Tortoise*: the *Loggerhead Turtle*, or *Tortoise* has neither good Shell or Flesh, so is little minded or regarded. They are a sort of creatures which live both on Land and Water. In the day usually keeping the Sea, swimming on the Surface of the Water, in fair Weather delighting to expose themselves to the Sun, oftentimes falling asleep, lying, as I have seen several times, without any Motion on the Waters, till disturbed by the approach of some Ship or Boat, being quick of hearing, they dive away. In the Night they often come ashore to feed and lay their *Eggs* in the Sand, which once covered, they leave to the Influence of the Sun, which in due time produces her young ones, which dig their Passage out of the Sand immediately making their way towards the Water. At this Season, when they most usually come ashore, which is in *April, May* and *June*, the Seamen or Turtlers, at some convenient distance watch their opportunity, getting between them and the Sea, turn them on their Backs, from whence they are ever unable to rise, by which means the Seamen or Turtlers sometimes turn 40 or 50 in a night, some of 2, 3, 400 weight. If they are far distant from the Harbor or Market to which they design to bring them, they kill, cutting them to pieces, which Salted, they Barrel. This is the way of killing at the *Caymana's*, an Island lying to Leeward of *Jamaica*. *Turtle*, Barrel'd and Salted, if well condition'd, is worth from 18 to 25 shillings the Barrel. If near their Market or Harbor they bring them in Sloops alive, and afterwards keep them in Crawls, which is a particular place of Salt Water of Depth and Room for them to swim in, pallisado'd or staked, in round above the Water's Surface, where upon occasion they take them out and kill them, and cutting them to pieces, sell

their Flesh for two pence or three pence the pound: the Belly, which they call the *Callope* of the Turtle, pepper'd and salted, or roasted and baked, is an excellent Dish, much esteemed by our Nation in the *West Indies*: the rest of the Flesh boil'd, makes as good and nourishing broth, as the best Capon in *England*, especially if some of the *eggs* are mixt with it; they are some white, and others of a yellow or golden Colour, in largeness not exceeding a Walnut, wrapt in a thin Skin or Membrane, sweet in taste, nourishing and wholesome: and of this property, that they never grow hard by boiling: the Liver is black; it freely opens and purges the Body: if little of it be eaten, it dyes the Excrements of a deep black Colour: The Fat in Color inclines to a Sea Green; in taste it's sweet and luscious, equalling, if not surpassing the best Marrow, if freely eaten it deeply stains the urine of its color. It's of a very penetrating piercing quality, highly comended in Strains and Aches. Of it the Turtlers oftentimes make an Oyl, which in Lamps burns much brighter and sweeter than common Lamp or Train Oyl. In general the Flesh is commended for a good *Antiscorbutique* and an *Anti-nerveeal* Diet; many in the former, and some that have been far gone in *Consumptions*, with the constant use alone of this Diet, have been thoroughly recovered and cured in three or four months. It hath 3 Hearts, by thin *Pellicules* only separated, which has caused some to Philosophize on its *Amphibious Nature*, alluding to those *participating* and *assimulating qualities* which it has to the rest of the universe, it swimming like a Fish, laying *Eggs* like a Fowl, and feeding on Grass like an Ox. This I am assured of, that after it's cut to pieces, it retains a Sensation of Life three times longer than any known Creature in the Creation. Before they kill them they are laid on their Backs, where hopeless of Relief, as if sensible of their future Condition, for some hours they mourn out their Funerals, the Tears, plentifully flowing from their Eyes, accompanied with passionate Sobs and Sighs, in my Judgment nothing more like than such who are surrounded and overwhelmed with Troubles, Cares and Grievs, which raises in Strangers both

Pity and Compassion. Compleatly six hours after the Butcher has cut them up and into pieces mangled their Bodies, I have seen the *Callope* when going to be seasoned, with pieces of their Flesh ready to cut into Stakes, vehemently contract with great Reluctancy rise against the Knife, and sometimes the whole Mass of Flesh in a visible Tremulation and Concussion, to him who first sees it seems strange and admirable. There is farther to the *Southward* of *Carolina*, especially about the *Shoars* and *Rivers* of *Hispaniola* and *Cuba* a Fish in Nature something like the former, call'd the *Manacy* or *Sea-Cow*, of an extraordinary Bigness, sometimes of 1000 pound weight. It feeds on the Banks and Shoar sides on the grassy *Herbage*, like a Tortoise but that which is more wonderful of this Creature is that she gives her young Ones suck from her *duggs*; she is headed like a *Cow*, of a green Colour, her Flesh by some esteemed the most delicate in the World, sweeter than the tenderest *Veal*, sold at *Jamaica*, where it's sometimes brought for 6 *d.* the pound. It hath a Stone in the Head which is a gallant Remedy against the Pains and Dolours of the Stone; so are the *Bones* of its Body to provoke urine, when pulveriz'd and exhibited in convenient Liquors. Its Skin makes excellent Whips for Horses, if prudently us'd, which are very serviceable and lasting; with one of these *Manaty* Strapps, I have seen a Bar of Iron cut and dented. It cuts so severe and deep, that by the Publick Authority at *Jamaica* Masters are forbidden and prohibited with it to strike their White Servants.

There is in the mouth of their Rivers, or in Lakes near the Sea a Creature well known in the *West Indies*, call'd the *Alligator* or *Crocodile*, whose Scaly Back is impenetrable, refusing a Musquet Bullet to pierce it, but under the Belly, that or an *Arrow* finds an easie Passage to destroy it: it lives both on Land and Water, being a voracious greedy Creature, devouring whatever it seizes on, Man only excepted, which on the land it has not the courage to attacque except when asleep or by surprize. In the Water it's more dangerous; it sometimes grows to a great length, from 16 to 20 foot, hav-



ing a long Mouth, beset with sharp keen Teeth; the Body when full grown as large as a Horse, declining towards the Tail; it's slow in motion, and having no Joynt in the *Vertebraes* or Back Bone, but with its whole length is unable to turn, which renders it the less mischievous; yet Nature by Instinct has given most Creatures timely Caution to avoid them by their strong musky Smell, which at a considerable distance is perceivable, which the poor Cattle for their own Preservation make good use of: their Flesh cuts very white; the young ones are eatable; the Flesh of the older smells so strong of Musk, that it nauseates; their Stones at least so called. are commended for a rich lasting Perfume.

*Metals* or *Minerals* I know not of any, yet it's supposed and generally, believed that the *Apalatean* Mountains which lie far up within the Land, yields *Ore* both of Gold and Silver, that the *Spaniards* in their running Searches of this Country saw it, but had not time to open them, or at least for the present were unwilling to make any farther Discovery till their Mines of *Peru* and *Mexico* were exhausted, or as others, that they were politically fearful that if the Riches of the Country should be exposed, it would be an Allure to encourage a Foreign Invader, Poverty preserving, Riches oftentimes the cause that Property is lost, usurped and invaded; but whether it be this or that reason time will discover.

The *Natives* of the Country are from time immemorial, *ab Origine* Indians, of a deep Chesnut Colour, their Hair black and straight, tied various ways, sometimes oyl'd and painted, stuck through with Feathers for Ornament or Gallantry; their Eyes black and sparkling, little or no Hair on their Chins, well limb'd and featured, painting their Faces with different Figures of a red or sanguine Colour, whether for Beauty or to render themselves formidable to their Enemies I could not learn. They are excellent Hunters; their Weapons the Bow and Arrow, made of a Reed, pointed with sharp Stones or Fish Bones; their Cloathing Skins of the *Bear* or *Deer*, the Skin drest after their Country Fashion.

*Manufactures* or Arts amongst them I have heard of none, only little *Baskets* made of painted *Reeds* and *Leather* drest sometimes with black and red *Chequers* coloured. In *Medicine*, or the Nature of *Simples*, some have an exquisite Knowledge; and in the Cure of *Scorbutick*, *Venereal*, and *Malignant Distempers* are admirable. In all *External Diseases* they suck the part affected with many *Incantations*, *Philtres* and *Charms*. In *Amorous Intrigues* they are excellent either to procure Love or Hatred. They are not very forward in Discovery of their Secrets, which by long Experience are religiously transmitted and conveyed in a continued Line from one Generation to another, for which those skill'd in this Faculty are held in great Veneration and Esteem, Their Religion chiefly consists in the Adoration of the *Sun* and *Moon*. At the Appearance of the *New Moon* I have observed them with open extended Arms then folded, with inclined Bodies, to make their Adorations with much Ardency and Passion. They are divided into many Divisions or Nations, Govern'd by *Reguli*, or Petty Princes, which our *English* call *Cacicoes*: Their Diet is of *Fish*, *Flesh*, and *Fowl*, with *Indian Maiz* or Corn; their Drink Water, yet Lovers of the *Spirits* of *Wine* and *Sugar*. They have hitherto lived in good Correspondence and Amity with the *English*, who by their just and equitable Carriage have extremly winn'd and obliged them. Justice being exactly and impartially administered prevents Jealousies, and maintains between them a good Understanding, that the Neighbouring *Indians* are very kind and serviceable, doing our Nation such Civilities and good Turns as lie in their Power.

This Country was first discovered by Sir *Sebastian Cabott*, by the order and at the expence of King *Henry VII.* from which Discovery our successive princes have held their claim, in pursuance to which, in the seventeenth year of His Majesties reign it was granted unto his Grace *George Duke of Albemarle*, unto the Right Honourable *Edward Earl of Clarendon*, *William Earl of Craven*, *John Lord Berkley*, *Anthony Lord Ashley*, now Earl of *Shaftsbury*, to the Honourable Sir *George Carteret*, and Sir *John Colleton*

Knights and Baronets, to Sir *William Berkely* Knight, with a full and plenipotentiary Power, to Colonize, Enact Laws, Execute Justice, &c. the *Regalia's* of Premier Sovereignty only reserved. The principal place where the *English* are now settled lies scituated on a point of Land about two Leagues from the Sea, between *Ashly* and *Cooper* Rivers, so named in Honour to the Right Honourable the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, a great Patron to the Affairs of *Carolina*. The place called *Charles Town*, by an express Order from the Lord Proprietors in the Year One thousand six hundred and eighty, their Ordnance and Ammunition being removed thither from *Old Charles Town*, which lay about a League higher from *Ashly* River. Both for its strength and commerce it's very commodiously scituated from many other Navigable Rivers that lie near it on which the Planters are seated; by the Advantage of Creeks, which have a Communication from one great River to another, at the Tide or Ebb the Planters may bring their Commodities to the Town as to the Common Market and Magazine both for Trade and Shipping. The Town is regularly laid out into large and capacious streets, which to buildings is a great ornament and beauty. In it they have reserved convenient places for building of a Church, Town-House and other Publick Structures, an Artillery-Ground for the Exercise of their *Militia*, and Wharfs for the Convenience of their trade and shipping. At our being there was judged in the country a 1000 or 1200 Souls; but the great Numbers of Families from *England*, *Ireland*, *Berbadoes*, *Jamaica*, and the *Caribbees*, which daily Transport themselves thither have more than doubled that Number. The commodities of the country as yet proper for *England*, are *Furrs* and *Cedar*: For *Berbadoes*, *Jamaica* and the *Caribbee* Islands, Provisions, Pitch, Tarr and Clapboard, for which they have in Exchange *Sugar*, *Rum*, *Melasses* and *Ginger*, &c. such things which are proper and requisite for the Planter to be stored with before he leaves *England* for his better Settlement there at his Arrival, chiefly Servants. All kind of Iron Work for the clearing of Land, pruning of Vines, for the Kitchen and for Building. Com-



modities proper for the Merchant to transport thither for his Advantage, Cloathing of all kinds, both Linnen and Woolen, Hats, Stockins, Shoes; all kind of Ammunition, Guns, Fowling-pieces, Powder, Match, Bullet, Nails, Locks & Knives; all Haberdashers Ware; Cordage, and Sails for Shipping, Spirits and Spices, *viz.* Cloves, Nutmegs and Cinnamon. Finally, to encourage people to transport themselves thither, the Lord Proprietors give unto all Masters and Mistresses of Families, to their Children, Men-Servants and Maid-Servants, if above Sixteen years of Age, fifty, to all such under forty Acres of Land to be held for ever, annually paying a Peny an Acre to the Lord Proprietors to commence in two Years after it's survey'd.

Sir, Thus in an Abstract I have given you the Draught of this excellent Country, beginning with its Name, Scituation, &c. and when first settled, regularly proceeding to the nature of the Soil, Quality of the Air, the Diseases and Longevity of its Inhabitants, the Rarity of its produce in *Trees, Fruits, Roots and Herbs, Beasts, Fish, Fowl and Insects*; the Nature and Disposition of the *Indians*, the progress the *English* have made since their first Settlement, what commodities they abound with, in what defective; in all which from the truth I have neither swerved nor varied: indeed in some other things I might have farther enlarged and expatiated, which I shall refer to a Personal Discourse, when I have the Honour to wait upon you again; in the meantime I am

*Your humble Servant*

T. A.

*FINIS*





